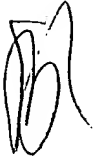


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 21, 25 and 31 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 20. (Canceled)

 ~~21.~~ (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

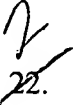
a storage unit arranged to store location information of a plurality of devices;

a reception unit arranged to receive location information which is input as a search condition by a user in order to search for a predetermined device and which is transferred from another information processing apparatus;

a retrieval unit arranged to retrieve location information which represents a location of said another information processing apparatus;

a search unit arranged to search for a device, ~~whose location information is stored in said storage unit,~~ in accordance with the location information input as the search condition received by said reception unit, the location information of said another information processing apparatus retrieved by said retrieval unit, and the location information of the plurality of devices stored in said storage unit; and

a transfer unit arranged to transfer device information searched by said search unit to said another information processing apparatus.

 ~~22.~~ (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~21~~, wherein the location information received by said reception unit as the search

condition is information which designates a first area, the location information which represents the location of the another information processing apparatus retrieved by said retrieval unit is information which designates a second area, and said search unit searches for a device having location information which designates said first area and said second area.

³
~~23~~. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~21~~, wherein the device information transferred by said transfer unit includes identification information of the device and the location information of the device, and the transferred location information is designated by a plurality of hierarchies.

⁴
³
~~24~~. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~23~~, further comprising a generation unit arranged to generate map information by selecting any of the plurality of hierarchies which designate the location information of the device searched by said search unit,

wherein said transfer unit transfers the map information generated by said generation unit to the another information processing apparatus.

⁵
~~25~~. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a first transfer means for transferring ~~unit arranged to transfer~~ location information input as a search condition by a user in order to search for a predetermined device;

a second transfer means for transferring ~~unit arranged to transfer~~ location information which represents a location of said information processing apparatus ~~itself~~; and

a reception means for receiving unit ~~arranged to receive~~ search results of a device that is searched in accordance with the location information input as the search condition ~~based on the location information~~ transferred by said first transfer means unit and the location information of the information processing apparatus transferred by said second transfer means unit.

5 26. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~25~~, wherein the location information input as the search condition transferred by said first transfer unit means is information which designates a first area, the location information which represents the location of the information processing apparatus transferred by said second transfer unit means is information which designates a second area and a third area, and said reception unit means receives the search results comprising a device having the location information which designates said first area and said second area.

7 27. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~26~~, wherein said second area includes said first area and said third area.

5 28. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~28~~, wherein said search results include identification information of the device and the location information of the device, and the location information of the device is designated by a plurality of hierarchies.

9 29. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim ~~28~~, further comprising:

a selection ~~unit arranged to select~~ means for selecting any of the hierarchies which designate the location information of the device of the search results received by said reception ~~unit~~ means; and

a display ~~unit arranged to display~~ means for displaying the hierarchy selected by said selection ~~unit~~ means as a map.

9/10
30. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 28, further comprising a display ~~unit arranged to display~~ means for displaying the hierarchy selected by a user, among the location information of the devices in the search results received by said reception ~~unit~~ means.

11
31. (Currently Amended) A method of searching for a device, comprising:
a storing step of storing location information of a plurality of devices;
a reception step of receiving location information which is input as a search condition by a user in order to search for a predetermined device and which is transferred from another an information processing apparatus;

a retrieval step of retrieving location information which represents a location of said another information processing apparatus;

a search step of searching for a device in accordance with the location information input as the search condition received in said reception step, ~~and~~ the location information of said another information processing apparatus retrieved in said retrieval step, and the stored location information of the plurality of devices; and

a transfer step of transferring device information searched in said search step to said another the information processing apparatus.